



State of Utah

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DWS News Release

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UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: April 2006

Utah's number of nonfarm wage and salaried jobs registered a year-over increase of 4.2 percent for April 2006. Approximately 47,900 new jobs have developed in the Utah economy over the past year, raising total wage and salary employment in Utah to 1,186,500. Employment growth remains in the 4-percent range, signaling consistency and sustainability in the Utah economy. This rate of employment growth keeps Utah within the top five states nationwide for employment growth.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate, registered 3.5 percent in April, down 0.9 percent from the unemployment rate of 4.4 percent registered a year ago in April, 2005. Approximately 46,200 Utahns were unemployed in April, 2006 as compared to 55,100 in April, 2005. March's unemployment rate is unrevised at 3.4 percent.

Mark Knold, Senior Economist for the Department of Workforce Services commented, "Utah's labor market indicators continue to signal a vibrant and growing Utah economy. The western United States is experiencing the most robust economic activity in the entire nation, and Utah finds itself right in the middle of this energy. In addition to solid labor market indicators, Utah is also stable in other sectors. Affordable housing precludes any housing bubble, rising incomes and increasing wages support consumer spending, and there are few discernable economic risks ahead. That's not to say the Utah economy can't or won't slow, but even if it did, it would still remain well above the national economic performance. At this point, only a minimal risk from an uncontrollable national energy situation would knock the Utah economic environment off its present positive course. The only groups having trouble in the current economic environment are some aspects of the business community who are not finding an abundant supply of skilled labor."

Since April 2005, the United States' economy has added 1.8 million new jobs—a growth rate of 1.4 percent. Over the past year, Utah's economy added approximately 47,900 new jobs, a growth rate of 4.2 percent. The Utah additions represent about 2.6 percent of all the new jobs added in the United States over the past year. The United States' unemployment rate registered 4.7 percent in April.

Utah Labor Market Indicators April 2006

Employment Growth: 4.2%
Employment Increase: 47,900
Unemployment Rate: 3.5%

United States

Employment Growth: 1.4%
Unemployment Rate: 4.7%

As has been the case throughout most of Utah's current economic expansion, all industrial sectors are contributing to employment growth. This ranges from a high of 10,800 new jobs over the past year in the professional and business services sector, to 800 new jobs in the small category labeled "other services."

The professional and business services sector consists of around 154,400 jobs in Utah (with seasonal fluctuations), or 13 percent of the state's employment base. This sector not only created the most new jobs over the past year—10,800—but it also has one of the highest growth rates at 7.6 percent. This sector's growth is distributed nearly equally in both the high-paying professional and technical sector, and the useful and flexible employment and temporary help industry.

The two fastest-growing sectors in Utah are natural resources and construction. Natural resource employment growth is being driven by the oil and gas industry, although employment in the coal mining industry centered on the Price area is also expanding. These energy-resource employment gains come as no surprise given the high price of oil and natural gas. In Utah, natural resource employment grew by 12.8 percent over the past year. Although that translates into the addition of only 1,100 new jobs, the high growth rate shows the dynamic activity currently centered on that industry. Comments from oil firms in the Uintah Basin suggest that if more workers could be found, that rate of employment growth would be even higher.

Construction is a large enough sector in Utah that its growth rate of 10.7 percent translates into a sizeable 8,300-job increase over the past year. Construction has been a key contributor to employment growth over the past two years. The growth rate of 10.7 percent illustrates not only a booming industry, but also exemplifies a thriving economy. Again, anecdotal evidence suggests this employment growth rate could be higher but appears to be held back by some labor constraints.

Trade, transportation, and utilities added 8,000 new jobs to the Utah economy over the past year—a growth rate of 3.6 percent. The trade aspect of this industry represents the most direct avenue and conduit with consumer spending. When people buy consumer goods, in most cases it is through retail outlets. Therefore, the trade aspect is very population-sensitive. It largely grows in direct response to population growth. Recent sales reports show strong retail sales activity in Utah. Strong Utah employment growth and rising wages translate into more dollars to spend, which in turn is fueling Utah's retail trade traffic, which produces more retail trade employment.

The leisure and hospitality industry is an important component of Utah's economy, constituting just under 10 percent of all employment. Recreation and tourism are the conduits that funnel tourists and their dollars to Utah. With employment in this industry growing at 2.1 percent, it confirms a continued interest in Utah as a travel destination. Lodging and restaurants dominate this industry. Most of the hotel activity is centered upon travelers, while much of the restaurant sector is not. But in the heavily tourist-dependent parts of the state, restaurants do serve the traveling population, and their employment expansion shows that America's growing tourism is a positive force in the Utah economy.

Utah's May employment numbers will be released at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2006.

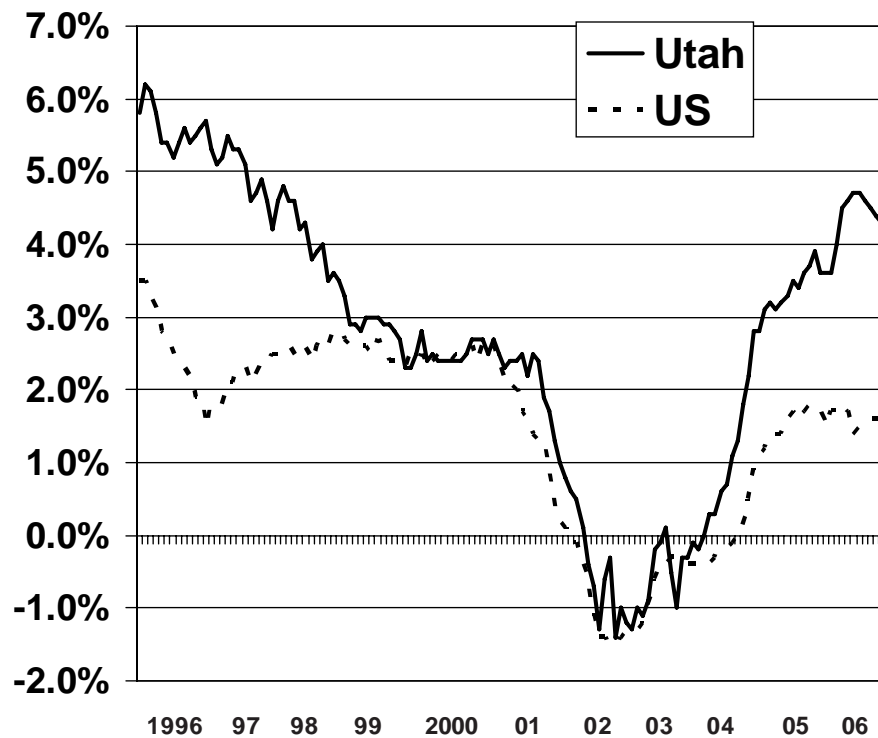
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Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

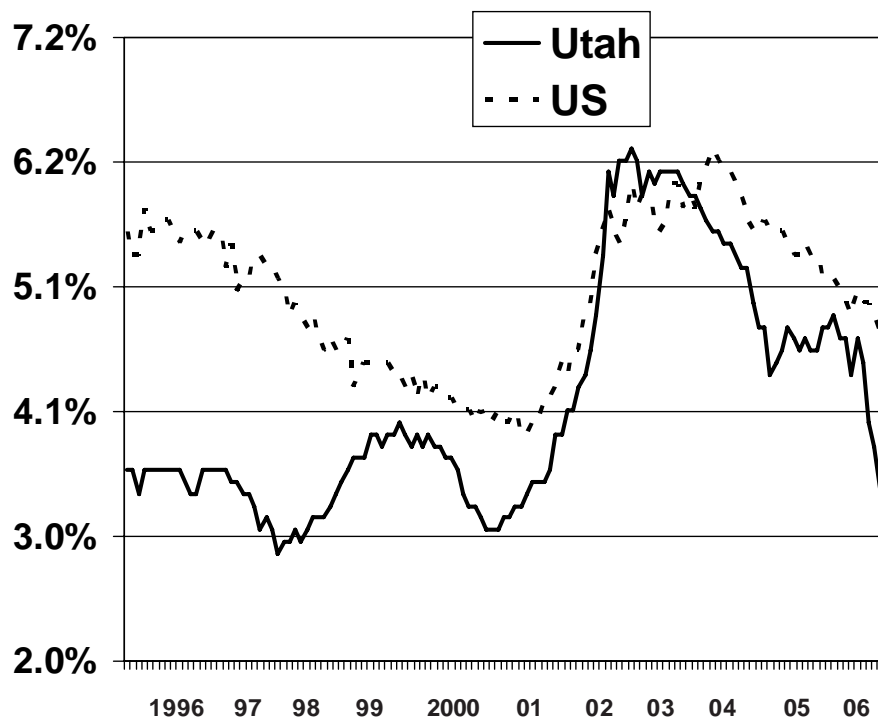
Numbers are in thousands and are not seasonally adjusted.	April(f) 2006	April 2005	Percentage Change	Mar.(r) 2006	Mar. 2005	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	1,304.8	1,748.5	-25.4	1,294.4	1,247.2	3.8
Employed	1,260.7	1,165.5	8.2	1,248.1	1,190.0	4.9
Unemployed	44.1	583.0	-92.4	46.3	57.2	-19.1
Unemployment Rate	3.4	4.8		3.6	4.6	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)	1,186.5	1,138.6	4.2	1,176.0	1,127.7	4.3
GOODS PRODUCING	215.0	202.6	6.1	211.3	197.9	6.8
Natural Resources, and Mining	9.3	8.2	12.8	9.2	7.8	17.7
Construction	86.5	78.2	10.7	83.8	74.7	12.3
Construction of Buildings	19.3	17.1	12.4	18.6	16.5	12.7
Heavy and Civil Engineering	8.3	7.8	6.3	7.6	7.1	
Specialty Trade Contractors	59.0	53.2	10.8	57.7	51.1	12.9
Manufacturing	119.2	116.2	2.6	118.3	115.5	2.5
Durable Goods	80.1	77.9	2.9	79.3	77.1	2.9
Primary and Fabricated Metals	15.5	15.0	3.5	15.4	14.9	3.3
Computer and Electronic Products	11.0	10.9	0.7	11.0	11.0	0.4
Transportation and Equipment Manufacturing	14.5	14.3	1.0	14.4	14.2	1.2
Non-Durable Goods	39.1	38.3	2.0	39.0	38.4	1.6
Food Manufacturing	13.0	13.2	-1.9	13.0	13.4	-3.1
Printing and Related Support Activities	6.7	6.7	0.5	6.7	6.9	-1.8
SERVICES PROVIDING	971.5	936.1	3.8	964.7	929.8	3.8
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	229.9	221.9	3.6	228.3	220.4	3.6
Wholesale Trade	44.9	42.5	5.7	44.5	42.2	5.4
Retail Trade	135.7	132.4	2.5	135.0	131.8	2.5
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	17.3	16.9	2.7	17.2	16.4	4.8
Food and Beverage Stores	22.4	21.9	2.0	22.4	22.0	1.5
General Merchandise Stores	25.7	25.7	0.0	25.6	25.6	-0.3
Transportation and Utilities	49.2	47.0	4.7	48.8	46.4	5.1
Utilities	4.0	4.0	1.5	4.0	3.9	2.6
Transportation & Warehousing	45.2	43.0	5.0	44.8	42.5	5.4
Air Transportation	6.9	6.8	1.7	6.9	6.7	2.3
Truck Transportation	17.7	17.3	2.0	17.3	17.0	1.8
Information	33.0	31.6	4.6	33.0	31.7	4.3
Publishing Industries	9.5	9.1	4.0	9.4	9.1	3.6
Motion Picture and Sound Recording	4.8	4.3	10.9	4.9	4.5	9.0
Telecommunications	5.8	5.8	-0.1	5.8	5.8	0.9
Internet Service Providers	8.5	7.8	7.8	8.3	7.9	6.2
Financial Activities	69.5	66.8	4.1	68.9	66.3	4.0
Finance and Insurance	52.1	50.5	3.2	51.7	50.2	3.0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	17.4	16.3	6.8	17.2	16.1	7.0
Professional and Business Services	154.4	143.6	7.5	151.9	140.8	7.9
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	59.2	54.7	8.2	58.3	53.4	9.2
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	11.1	10.3	7.3	10.8	10.0	8.8
Computer Systems Design and Related	13.3	11.8	13.3	13.1	11.5	14.3
Management of Companies and Enterprises	21.1	20.8	1.3	21.0	20.8	1.0
Administration & Support						
& Waste Management & Remediation	74.1	68.1	8.8	72.6	66.7	8.9
Employment Services	24.9	20.1	23.9	24.6	20.5	20.3
Business Support Services	17.2	17.6	-2.3	17.3	17.8	-3.1
Education and Health Services	135.0	129.3	4.4	134.1	128.6	4.3
Educational Services	31.6	30.2	4.7	31.5	30.0	4.9
Health Services and Social Assistance	103.4	99.1	4.3	102.7	98.6	4.1
Ambulatory Health Care Services	39.4	37.6	4.8	38.9	37.2	4.5
Hospitals	29.7	28.8	3.3	29.7	28.8	3.0
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	19.2	18.5	3.9	19.2	18.4	4.5
Social Assistance	15.0	14.2	5.6	14.8	14.1	4.9
Leisure and Hospitality	106.0	103.8	2.1	106.2	104.3	1.9
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	16.7	16.1	3.7	17.4	16.8	3.3
Accommodation and Food Services	89.2	87.6	1.8	88.9	87.5	1.6
Accommodation	17.1	17.1	0.1	17.3	17.2	0.9
Food Services and Drinking Places	72.1	70.5	2.2	71.6	70.3	1.8
Other Services	33.9	33.1	2.6	33.8	32.8	2.9
Government	209.9	206.0	1.9	208.4	204.9	1.7
Federal Government	35.9	35.0	2.6	35.7	34.8	2.7
Federal Defense	16.4	16.1	1.7	16.4	16.1	1.5
Other Federal Government	19.6	18.9	3.4	19.4	18.7	3.7
State Government	64.6	63.4	1.9	64.4	63.4	1.5
State Schools	36.0	35.4	1.6	36.0	35.3	2.1
Other State Government	28.6	27.9	2.4	28.4	28.2	0.8
Local Government	109.3	107.6	1.6	108.3	106.7	1.5
Local Education	64.4	63.7	1.1	64.4	63.6	1.2
Other Local Government	44.9	43.9	2.2	43.8	43.1	1.8

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services f = forecast r = revised May 16, 2006

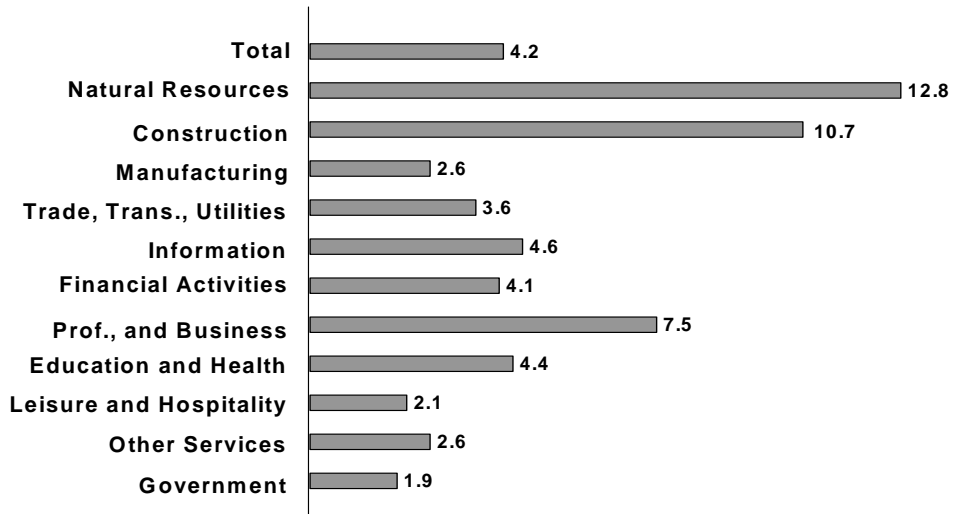
Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

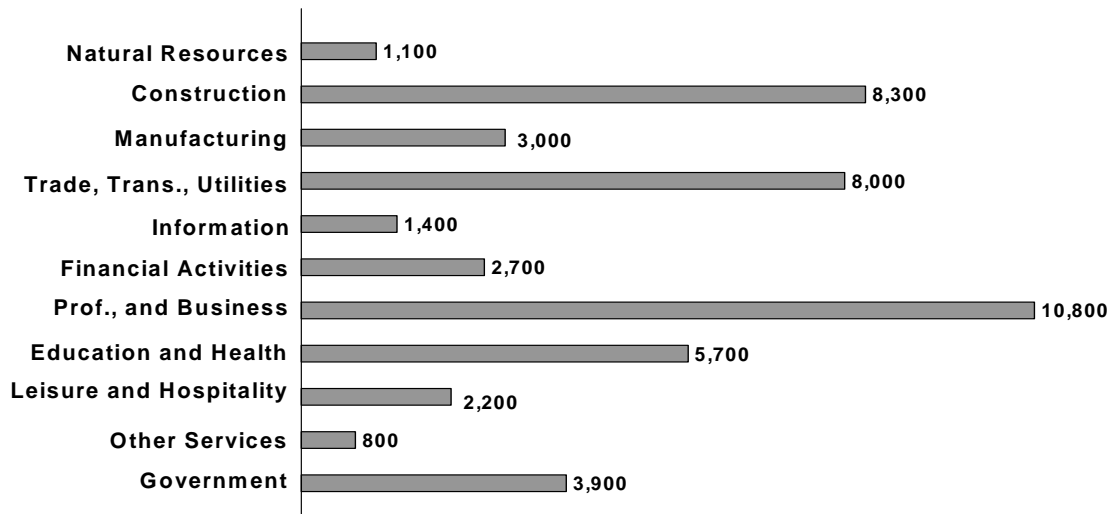


Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Percent Change) April 2005 – 2006



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Numeric Change) April 2005 – 2006



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES

	April 2006(f)	April 2005	Percent Change	Mar. 2006(r)	Feb. 2006(r)
State Total	1,186,529	1,138,820	4.2	1,176,022	1,166,791
Bear River	67,972	66,543	2.1	67,293	67,083
Box Elder	19,575	18,748	4.4	19,192	19,061
Cache	47,860	47,241	1.3	47,572	47,485
Rich	537	554	-3.1	530	537
Wasatch Front	778,171	749,985	3.8	770,317	764,957
North	191,551	186,797	2.5	189,097	187,376
Davis	97,694	94,576	3.3	95,895	94,919
Morgan	1,841	1,857	-0.8	1,811	1,803
Weber	92,015	90,364	1.8	91,391	90,654
South	586,620	563,188	4.2	581,220	577,581
Salt Lake	571,814	549,409	4.1	566,668	563,224
Tooele	14,807	13,779	7.5	14,552	14,356
Mountainland	200,963	191,350	5.0	201,708	200,858
Summit	19,794	18,277	8.3	22,392	22,744
Utah	175,083	167,510	4.5	173,260	172,082
Wasatch	6,086	5,563	9.4	6,056	6,031
Central	23,208	22,642	2.5	23,031	22,714
Juab	3,163	3,039	4.1	3,123	3,132
Millard	3,924	3,821	2.7	3,923	3,818
Piute	279	305	-8.6	286	279
Sanpete	7,175	7,048	1.8	7,194	7,120
Sevier	7,636	7,466	2.3	7,533	7,465
Wayne	1,033	963	7.2	972	901
Southwestern	74,706	69,468	7.5	73,262	72,064
Beaver	1,974	1,905	3.6	1,979	1,954
Garfield	2,219	2,218	0.0	1,862	1,758
Iron	16,835	15,888	6.0	16,855	16,714
Kane	2,848	2,710	5.1	2,690	2,491
Washington	50,830	46,747	8.7	49,876	49,146
Uintah Basin	19,394	17,810	8.9	18,814	18,595
Daggett	456	435	4.9	383	368
Duchesne	6,237	5,704	9.3	6,133	6,029
Uintah	12,701	11,671	8.8	12,298	12,198
Southeastern	22,115	21,022	5.2	21,597	20,520
Carbon	9,405	8,845	6.3	9,367	9,271
Emery	3,931	3,782	3.9	3,809	3,719
Grand	4,868	4,486	8.5	4,618	3,859
San Juan	3,911	3,909	0.1	3,804	3,670

f = forecast r = revised but not final.

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 5/16/06